



Legislative Bulletin.....March 6, 2007

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H.Con.Res. 78—Authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Tuskegee Airmen

Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 0

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.Con.Res. 78—Authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Tuskegee Airmen
(*Rangel, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 6th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 78 would authorize the Capitol Rotunda to be used on March 29, 2007, for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the Tuskegee Airmen. The Architect of the Capitol would handle the physical preparations for the ceremony.

Additional Background: Public Law 109-213 authorized \$30,000 to create and issue a Congressional Gold Medal to the Tuskegee Airmen, collectively, in recognition of their unique military record.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt overruled his top generals and ordered the creation of an all-black flight training program. Because racial segregation prevailed in the United States during World War II, black military pilots were trained at a separate airfield built near Tuskegee, Alabama. The trainees became known as the “Tuskegee Airmen.” Studies commissioned by the Army War College between 1924 and 1939 concluded that blacks were unfit for leadership roles and incapable of aviation. But, the Tuskegee Airmen excelled.

Overall, 992 black pilots graduated from the pilot training program of the Tuskegee Army Air Field, with the last class finishing in June 1946. 450 Tuskegee Airmen served in combat. Learn more about the Airmen here: <http://www.nps.gov/tuai/>.

A period of nearly 30 years of anonymity for the Tuskegee Airmen was ended in 1972 with the founding of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., in Detroit, Michigan. Organized as a non-military and nonprofit entity, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., exists primarily to motivate and inspire young Americans to become participants in society and its democratic processes, and to preserve the history of their legacy. <http://tuskegeearmen.org/>.

RSC Bonus Fact: Among the recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal are President George Washington, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Winston Churchill, and Pope John Paul II. Legislation has been introduced in recent Congresses to award the medal to individuals such as the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Arnold Palmer, Cesar Chavez, and Fred Rogers. To see a full list of award recipients see: <http://www.congressionalgoldmedal.com>.

Committee Action: On March 5, 2007, the resolution was referred to the Committee on House Administration, which took no subsequent action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no additional funding (expenditures would come from the existing budgets of the involved Capitol offices).

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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